

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please change the title at page 1, line 1, from "Method for the preparation of alkyl esters of difluoroacetoacetic acid" to

-- METHOD FOR PRODUCING DIFLUORO-ACETYL ACETIC ACID ALKYL ESTERS --

Please insert the following at page 1, between the title and line 3:

-- The present patent application has been filed under 35 U.S.C. 371 as a national stage application of PCT/EP2004/006607, filed June 18, 2004, which was published in German as International Patent Publication WO 2005/003077 on January 13, 2005, and is entitled to the right of priority of German Patent Applications 10329450.3, filed July 1, 2003, and 10331496.2, filed July 11, 2003.--